

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 NEA-14 SAM-01 SAB-01 PM-07

NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 H-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

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TO AMCONGEN JERUSALEM PRIORITY

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FOR SECRETARY FROM AMB SCALI

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR UN XF IS LE

SUBJ: SCALI MEETINGS WITH JEWISH LEADERS

1. I RECEIVED TWO JEWISH LEADERSHIP GROUPS ON MAY 16 AND
17. THEY VOICED PLEAS USG CONDEMN MAALOT INCIDENT. I
EXPRESSED APPROPRIATE GRIEF, URGED THEY EXERT RESTRAINT ON
STREET DEMONSTRATORS AND BACK SECY'S PEACE MISSION AS BEST
OUTCOME.
2. FIRST GROUP WAS HEADED BY RABBI ISRAEL MILLER WHO HAS
SUCCEEDED JACOB STEIN AS CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS
OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS (RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR). MILLER
EXPRESSED HORROR OVER MAALOT AND ASKED WHAT COULD BE DONE
IN UN. I EXPLAINED HOW ISRAELI RETALIATION CLOUDED OUTLOOK.
I BELIEVE HE LEFT WITH FULL CONFIDENCE IN OUR MORAL POSITION
AND WITH ACCEPTANCE OF VIEW THAT VERY HIGHEST PRIORITY MUST
BE GIVEN TO SECY'S EFFORT TO ACHIEVE DURABLE PEACE IN ME.
3. SEPARATE RELIGIOUS GROUP HEADED BY RABBI MORRIS BLANK
OF SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF AMERICA CALLED TODAY. ALSO
PRESENT WERE RABBI JOSEPH GLASER (CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF
AMERICAN RABBIS); RABBI WOLFE KELMAN (RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY);
RABBI LOUIS BERNSTEIN (RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA); RABBI

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SAUL TEPLITZ (SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF AMERICA); ARTHUR LEVINE

(UNITED SYNAGOGUE); AND RABBI BRICKER (AFFILIATION NOT SPECIFIED).

4. RABBI BLANK OPENED CONVERSATION BY EXPRESSING ON BEHALF OF GROUP PROFOUND SENSE OF GRIEF OVER ALL LOST LIVES IN RECENT TRAGEDIES, BOTH ARAB AND ISRAELI. HE ASKED WHAT US CAN DO IN UN ("THE CONSCIENCE OF THE WORLD") ABOUT TERRORISM. HE THEN ASKED WHAT JEWISH COMMUNITY COULD DO TO HELP.

5. IN OFF-RECORD REMARKS I TOLD GROUP FRANKLY THAT UN COULD DO LITTLE ABOUT TERRORISM AND BEST ROAD TO END OF TERRORISM WAS THROUGH SECY'S PEACE EFFORT. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL OF GROUP WERE UNDERSTANDABLY IN SOMEWHAT EMOTIONAL STATE OVER MAALOT, I BELIEVE THEY TOO ACCEPTED MY ARGUMENT THAT THE WAY OUT OF THE WILDERNESS IS VIA SECY'S EFFORT TO ACHIEVE FIRST DISENGAGEMENT AND SECOND AND ENDURING PEACE. THEY AGREED IT DESIRABLE TO ASSURE AMERICAN -JEWISH CONGREGATIONS ON SABBATH THAT GNERAL JUST ME PEACE IS GOAL OF USG. I SAID PRAYERS MORE POTENT THEN PARADES AT PRESENT.

6. THIS LATTER GROUP EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION FOR SECY'S STATEMENTS AND MINE RE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE IN MAALOT AND IN LEBANON. AS RABBI MILLER HAD DONE PREVIOUS DAY, THEY IMPLICITLY ENDORSED MY ARGUMENT THAT AMERICANS OUTRAGED BY EVENTS IN ME SHOULD AVOID VIOLENCE AS THEY DEMONSTRATE THEIR FEELINGS. BOTH GROUPS REFLECTED AWARENESS THAT FEELINGS IN US, PARTICULARLY IN JEWISH COMMUNITY, RUNNING SO HIGH THAT COMMUNITY AND NATIONAL LEADERSHIP MUST USE GREAT CARE IN EFFORTS TO KEEP LID ON.
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